

PLANET AID UK NEWSLETTER

OUR CLIMATE, OUR CHALLENGE



Planet Aid UK is the British member of the International Humana People to People Movement implementing 1100 projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America

Global Warming and Climate Change are the biggest challenges facing the world's humanity today. Scientific facts tell us that it is happening now and we need to take action within the next decade to avoid catastrophic changes to our lives on this beautiful, natural world which has been developing over the last 3.5 billion years.



In December 2018 Planet Aid UK volunteers planted 850 trees at a site close to Corby

In Humana People to People's 1,100 projects, involving approximately 14 million people, we have committed ourselves to increasing our efforts to teach, to mobilise and to react to this challenge. Within these global projects in which we work people are experiencing the effects of climate change, drought, flooding almost unbearably high temperatures, threatening forest fires and hurricanes etc. Previously the farmers could predict when the dry season started and, when it was rainy season they knew it was time to plant and harvest. But not any more.

WE ALL HAVE TO ACT AND DO MORE THAN WE HAVE EVER DONE BEFORE!

Planet Aid UK is committed to collecting more clothes to help save the world's resources, to cut CO₂ emissions and to raise more funds while acting locally, nationally and internationally with our colleagues in 45 countries worldwide.



Did you know that...

- ◆ **Currently 30% of energy in the UK is produced by renewable sources: i.e. wind, biomass, wave, solar, hydro. It will have to increase very fast.**
- ◆ **In December 2018 there were 9,287 wind turbines in UK.**
- ◆ **Renewable energy is now cheaper to produce than energy from oil, nuclear resources and coal.**
- ◆ **More UK electricity was produced by wind and solar sources last year than by nuclear power stations.**

Collecting, Sorting and Packing Clothes



Collecting clothes is our core business. Each week our drivers collect from over 1,200 clothing banks. We take pride in handling the clothes with care ensuring that as much as possible can be reused, either here in the UK or in the poorest parts of the world. Humana People to People's European members are known for the highest percentage of reuse in the second hand clothes industry currently at 70%.



In 2018 Planet Aid UK's collection increased by 6%. This is due to more frequent collections, especially from our busiest sites, investment in more theft-proof clothing banks and an intense refurbishment programme. Over the past 18 months our workshop has refurbished nearly 1,000 clothing banks and these have been placed on both new and existing sites.

Our clothing banks display the message 'IF YOU DO - THEN THEY CAN' to our donors and site hosts with a picture of children collecting clean water. 100% of the profits from our operation is used to support the poorest people in the world.



Did you know that...

- ◆ One bag of used clothes donated to Planet Aid UK does more to protect air quality than one tree does in a year.
- ◆ In 2018 300,000 tonnes of clothing were sent to landfill in the UK.
- ◆ DAPP Malawi (a member of Humana People to People) reuses 99% of all clothes they receive from their sister organisations in the north.

Planet Aid UK started garden farming

Outside our sorting centre we have a piece of land mainly covered with trees which have matured over the 18 years we have been based in Corby. This area has a lot of wild flowers and wildlife. In the early summer we decided to improve the area by planting vegetable and fruit beds providing organic produce for all of our employees. We were surprised to see how well they grew; beetroot, carrots, spinach, strawberries, courgettes, salad and tomatoes. There is something special about picking your own vegetables, knowing that they are organic and good for the environment.



Did you know that...

- ◆ There are approximately 1 million allotments in the UK
- ◆ The amount of people wanting to grow their own produce is increasing

Strengthening Food Security

Once again Planet Aid UK has been able to support women in Ecuador helping to provide the means for them to earn an average income of \$200 a month through sporadic work in agriculture, the production of sweets and other day jobs.



They support families of six members on average, including adults and elders. Significantly, and despite the challenges they face, the women operate a soup kitchen for vulnerable children and adolescents between the ages of 1 and 15 years old.

This project strengthens the women's capacity to establish and care for vegetable gardens increasing the variety of vegetables used in the soup kitchen and ensuring all-year round access to food while allowing women to invest surplus revenue in other food groups such as meat, a key source of protein.

Namibia's Success in the fight against AIDS



Newly released data by the US President's Emergency Plan For Aids Relief (PEPFAR) show it is the community- centred approach (TCE) that has helped Namibia exceed some of the 90-90-90 targets set by UNAids in 2014.

The figures measure:

90 percentage of people who are thought to be HIV-positive who know their status

90 percentage of people who know their status who are taking antiretroviral drugs

90 percentage of people who are taking the drugs who have an undetectable level of HIV.

For Namibia, the figures are 86%, 96% and 91%

In line with PEPFAR's strategy, the goal of current TCE (Total Control of the Epidemic) programming in Namibia is to achieve epidemic control within a targeted 1 million people. Realising the goal of an AIDS-free generation DAPP Namibia is focusing on identifying the undiagnosed HIV-positive people within key and priority populations.

TCE was launched in Namibia in 2006 and has been working to fight the epidemic ever since. The program employs local staff and volunteers from the community, who help build trust in the program and convince respondents to identify their sexual partners so that they may be tested.

For many years Planet Aid UK has supported the work in Namibia.



Humana People to People in Europe



Europe

The main part of the clothes collection takes place in Western Europe from more than 20,000 clothing banks.

Humana People to People is a worldwide federation of members operating over 1,100 projects within education, health, food security and environment. In Europe the 26 members main activities are to raise funds for aid projects in the poorer parts of the world. Since the federation started the collection and selling of second hand clothes has been at the heart of our activities. Today a large part of the funds come from donors like UNICEF, UNESCO, Global Funds, USAID, European Commission, businesses and governments in Europe, to name just a few.

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We need your help

Planet Aid UK is a not for profit limited company. A '100% social business', a term which unfortunately is increasingly overused. A very precise definition for this has been formulated by the Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, who coined the term, '*The business meets a social need and surpluses are either reinvested or donated to good cause 100%*'.



In the UK our promoters are sometimes asked the question, 'Are you a Registered Charity'. We explain what we are and what we do and are proud to be a part of the worldwide NGO Humana People to People involving 14 million people in 45 different countries.

Unfortunately some disreputable collectors misuse charity names. Their chosen charity is prominently displayed on their banks but it is not easy to see who the operator actually is and how much they donate to the charity. It is good to see that some such collectors who place 'charity' clothing banks without permission are now under investigation by the Charity Commission.

If you see a bank appear next to a Planet Aid UK clothing bank without permission please contact us and we will do whatever we can to get it removed. Very often these collectors have no interest in cleaning around the bank or being in contact with the host and some don't even display a telephone number on their banks. Their activities damage the reputation of the clothes collection industry and cause much harm to the reputable collectors that provide a good service.

We need your help to place our banks to support our environmental work.